

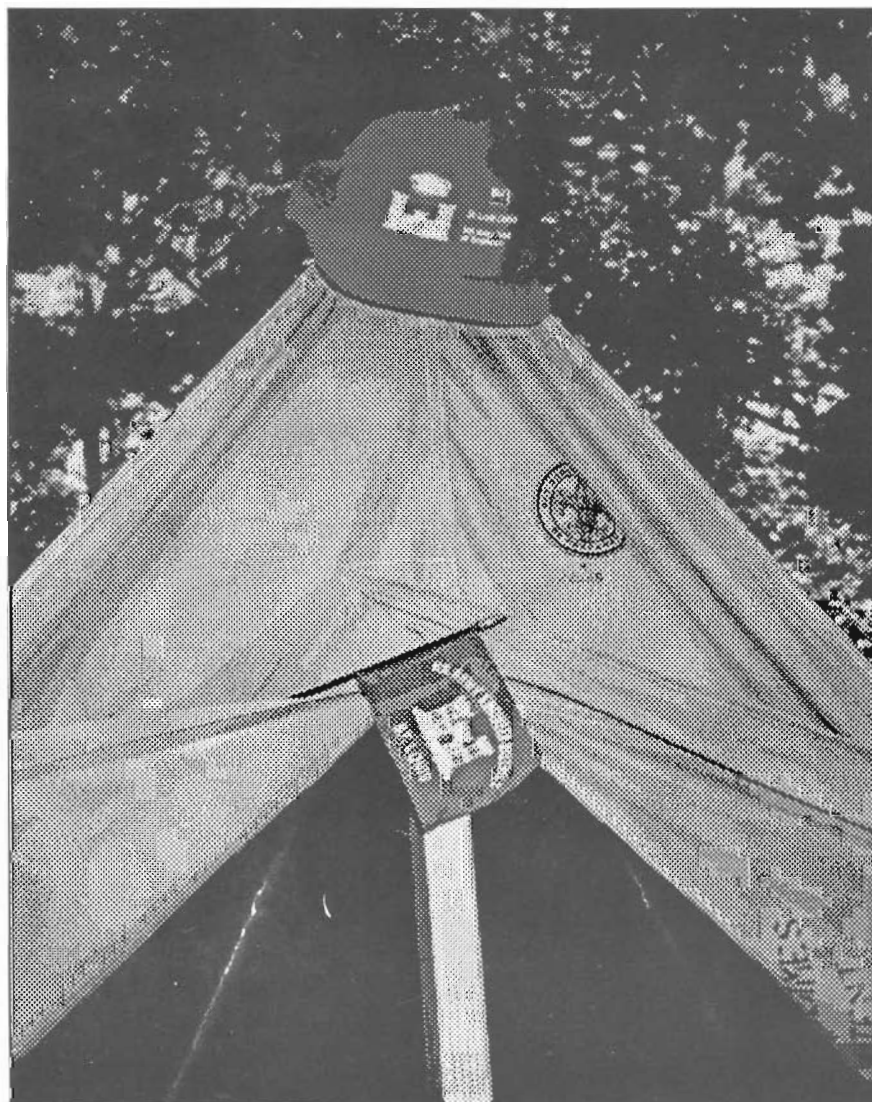
ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT

ESPRIT

VOL. 27 NO. 7

JULY 1990

RENDEZVOUS '90

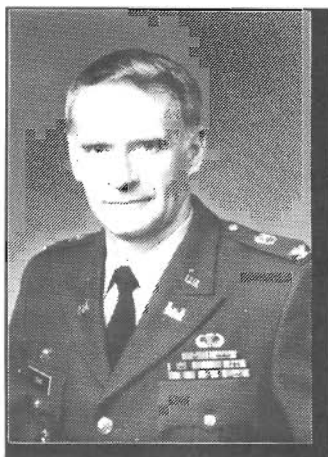


**District
supports
Scouts**

**See
page
11**



Corbin's Comments by Col. James E. Corbin



Hi! It's that time of the month.

For whatever it's worth, there are six new starts for the St. Louis District in the House version of the Budget that weren't in the President's Budget. It will now be up to the Senate and the House to work things out, then we'll see whether the Administration agrees to things or vetoes the

Budget. Suspect with the DEFICIT first and foremost in everyone's mind, particularly the politicians', that it will be a long, difficult Fall and Winter arriving at an approved Budget for Fiscal Year '91. Suspect we'll spend some time with a continuing resolution.

The additions put in by the House of Representatives include Valley Park, in Missouri, which would enable us to start construction of the protection for that community; Apple Creek, in Illinois, which authorizes the start of study for a 12,000 to 20,000 acre reservoir about an hour from Springfield, Illinois; a regional water supply study for the Metropolitan St. Louis area, to include outlying counties, that addresses a significant need in this area; work on the Port of St. Louis County; work on St. Louis Harbor; and engineering and design on flood control for Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Almost all of the above, except maybe Valley Park, will be nontraditional efforts, so put on your creative thinking caps and get ready for an interesting roller coaster.

Ongoing efforts include the Mel Price Project -- both construction of the Second Lock and development of decent "quality of life" opportunities (ecological, recreational and informational/educational)

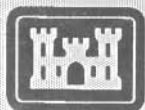
for the people of this section of America. Did you know that Pool 26 has the heaviest recreational boater registration of anywhere on the Mississippi River? Did you know that the best bass fishing in this section of the country the last two years was in Pool 26? All true!

The Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area is attracting national attention as one of the best examples of a successful ecological effort in the country. There is an article about it in the most recent copy of *Audubon Magazine* that you might find of interest.

The Environmental Management Program (EMP) is finally in full swing. We, as a District, still have failed to fully execute our portion of the program, much to my chagrin; but, we will this year!

Those of you who are involved in environmental initiative, hang in there. You have the backing and support of everyone from the President through the Secretaries of Defense and Army, through the Chief of Engineers down through me. The difficulty becomes our inability as an institution to shift quickly enough to adjust how we do business. Many of us were trained to view "environmental" as an unclean word, in some cases by the more radical elements of the environmental movement. Having said that, no one has really moved out and created a true climate for success that can be translated into effective action, except maybe at the District level, in several districts -- not just St. Louis. Many appear to want to put it in the normal budget cycle to be done tomorrow, I guess hoping that "environment" will go away. Instead we should be reprogramming, creating venture pots of money that enable districts to go on the attack, seizing success by implementing low cost, high visibility, high payoff efforts. All the authorities are already in place if one views the environment as a positive step. If it is viewed as a negative effort, then specific legislation forcing us to

(Continued on page 14)



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District

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District Commander.....James E. Corbin

Act. Chief, Public Affairs.....Chuck Franco

Editor, Design, Layout.....Ken Kruchowski

Assistant Editor.....Mary Lou Lawson

Address mail to: U.S. Army Engineer District, St. Louis, ATTN: CELMS - PA, 210 Tucker Blvd, North, St. Louis, MO 63101-1986. Phone: (314)263-5662.



RAY Building update



It's almost time folks for our great exodus. August will be an interesting month.

The installation of systems furniture will begin right after the 4th of July. The contractor will install about 100 workstations a week, beginning with OD and RE. The really important thing has been taken care of. We have 550 square waste baskets on order. Everyone will have a wastebasket that will fit into corners for easy bankshots when they arrive at their new home.

Basement space will not be ready, so LM will contact you for alternate plans.

The mail room will be temporarily located on the third floor in vacant space until its designated space in the basement is ready. IM also plans to store blank forms in the third floor space temporarily. The library space on the first floor is scheduled to be ready for the second weekend of moving (17-19 August).

There will be plenty of gloves available for purchase from supply. You'll need them to keep your hands beautiful when moving boxes around. (That's a message for those of us who will

be forced into manual labor). There's also plenty of reinforcing tape for the used boxes we will have to use. There will be two sizes of boxes available: 20x20x20 and 12 1/2x12 1/2x16. Put the books and papers in the smaller boxes. And pack them full so they don't get crushed. They will be stacked by the movers. Boxes will be available after the 4th of July. Remember, the movers won't pack. Packing is up to you. They just move. If you have stuff that can be moved early, let LM know. The movers may be able to move it early.

The movers plan to start Friday afternoon on the 11th of August and work around the clock until the move is complete. The mover's trucks can't move down Tucker Boulevard until after 6 p.m.

GSA will provide parking for our fleet in August if our parking places at the RAY Building aren't available when we move.

The phones will be in service at 210 until August 24. That can be extended to the 31st if necessary. IM will have cards available to send out for notification of telephone number changes.

The computer equipment will be packed and moved by a contractor. You are responsible only for backing up your files. The Harris computer will be moved during the second move weekend (17-19 Aug.).

There will be some type of courier mail service between the buildings during the week between the moves.

That's all I have to report. Expect a lot of notices about the move as information becomes available. Good luck. See you at the RAY Building.

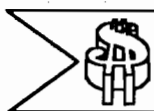
Systems furniture saves money for District

It was June 1985 when the General Services Administration (GSA) notified the St. Louis District its lease for the building we currently occupy would expire 21 September 1990. Rather than negotiate a new lease, GSA decided it would be more prudent to move all agencies to a government-owned building.

Since 1985 the District Headquarters has occupied 99,304 square feet of office, special and storage space costing \$1,218,952 annually. We have used far more than the 135 square feet per person required in the Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR). In an effort to reach mandatory requirements, we agreed to join other agencies scheduled to move to the Robert A. Young Building (formerly the Mart Building) and change from conventional to systems furniture. A study was conducted for GSA by Stone, Marraccini and Patterson in October 1987 which showed a minimum cost savings of \$278,000 would result if we used systems furniture to reduce the space needed in the RAY Building to comply with the FPMR. Division Headquarters approved the change to systems furniture in February 1988.

The District used the reutilization program provided by the DoD and GSA to provide furniture until the move, resulting in about \$45,000 of savings during FY88 and FY89 alone.

All the District's serviceable furniture will be used by District field offices, other Corps offices or other agencies after the move.



Promotions & Incentive Awards



PROMOTIONS:

Glenn Ashoff, OD
Eugene Beckham, OD
Victor Behrmann, ED
Alexander Bienkowski, ED
Gary Buckholtz, OD
Patrick Conroy, ED
Michael Dorey, OD
Larry Dornin, OD
Constance Driscoll, PO
Dennis Dunn, OD
Lonnie Forest, OD
Thomas Furdek, ED
Roger Groner, OD
Bernard Hawickhorst, PD
John Hipes, OD
Joseph Hobbs, OD
Alton Jenkins, OD
Steven Johnson, OD
Paul Lingle, OD
Robert Lockhart, OD
Mark McLean, CD
Avenant Melidor, ED
Don Mirick, OD
Gregory Molchan, OD
Antoinette Mueller, ED
Virginia Mueller, IM
Robert Muffler, OC
William O'Herin, OC
Robert Painter, OD
John Poullain, ED
Robert Rapp, ED
Regina Schaffner, OC
Edward Schneider, OD
Phillip Skaggs, OD
Joseph Stelbrink, OD
Jerry Stroud, OD
Charles Taylor, OD
Obbie Thompson, ED
Richard Ubben, CD
Garry Vetter, OD
Francis Walton, PD
Ezra Williams, OD
Anne Woodrome, PO
Mark Wunsch, RE
Donna Zoeller, ED

PERFORMANCE AWARDS:

Vanessa Alexander, IM
Leonard Alfeld, DC
Barbara Collier, LM
Robert Deien, OD
Leona Florek, ED
Jo Ann Gray, BC
Susan Janota-Summers, RE
Donna Kavanagh, DC
Edwin Koopman, OD
Mary Lou Lawson, PA
James MacMorran, CD
Millie Meyer, OD
Richard Mills, ED
Christopher Morgan, OD
Virginia Mueller, IM
Carl Okenfuss, ED
William Remmert, PD
Joseph Smothers, OD
Melbourne Stohl, ED
Kenneth Strong, OD

QUALITY STEP INCREASE:

Harry Hamell, RE
Ida Morris, PD

SPECIAL ACT AWARDS:

Melvin Baldus, ED
Alexander Bienkowski, ED
Edward Demsky, ED
Stephen Farkas, ED
Walter Feld, OD
Billy Finley, CD
R. C. Franco, PA
Rachel Garren, OD
Dennis Gould, ED
Elbert Haskett, ED
Chien Hsieh, ED
Brian Kleber, PM
Kenneth Koller, PM
Dawayne Sanders, ED
Kathie Shelton, PO
Richard Sovar, ED
Jeffrey Stamper, ED
William Sutton, PM

Kent Employee of The Year

Lewis Kent, Lockmaster at Lock and Dam 24, in Clarksville, Missouri, has been selected as the St. Louis Area Federal Executive Board's Employee of the Year in the trades and crafts category. Mr. Kent was in competition with employees nominated from all the federal agencies in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.

Mr. Kent was sighted for his job related accomplishments, such as his work coordinating on-site construction activities with daily navigation activities to minimize costly delays to the towing industry, his maintenance efforts on a structure that has reached the end of its 50 year designed project life, which has avoided emergency shut downs and his efforts to make the lock and dam safer and more accessible to the visiting public.

He was also sighted for community service, such as his church work, service on the Clarksville Board of Public Works, Khoury League coaching, Scouting and work for the needy in the area.

Congratulations to Lewis Kent, Federal Executive Board Trades and Crafts Employee of the Year.

Bond Drive success

District employees are realizing what a good investment United States Savings Bonds have become. The Savings Bond deductions for the District has increased 29 percent since this year's District Savings Bond drive began, surpassing the District's goal.

The bond canvassers did an excellent job in providing information about the various bond changes and in making sure the bond forms were turned in on time.

Thanks to everyone who helped on the drive.



Coming events at the lakes

MARK TWAIN LAKE

July 21-22 - Indian Relic Exhibit at M.W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitor Center
August 11-12 - Annual Water Safety Carnival
September 22 - National Hunting and Fishing Day

WAPPAPELLO LAKE

July 14-15 - Silver Bullet Amateur Speedboat Race
July 21-22 - Annual Water Safety Carnival
October 6 - Fall Festival, National Hunting and Fishing Day, Pioneer Arts and Crafts Show

CARLYLE LAKE

August 19 - Water Sports Festival
September 22 - National Hunting and Fishing Day
October 19-21 - Okaw Valley Council Boy Scouts 25th Anniversary Camporee (Coles Creek Recreation area)

REND LAKE

July 14-15 - Rend Lake Arts and Crafts Fair
August 11 - Pioneer Life Festival
September 15 - Take Pride in America Lake Clean-up

LAKE SHELBYVILLE

July 20-22 - Shelbyville Chautauqua Days (parade, talent show, 5K race)
July 28-29 - Water Follies (water safety, sand castle contest)
August 4-5 - Smokey Bear Weekend
August 9-19 - Illinois State Fair
August 18 - Okaw Indian Festival
September 1-2 - Controlled dove hunt
September 29 - National Hunting and Fishing Day
October 4 - Eco-Meet

Accident summary

PERSONAL INJURIES - GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - JUNE 90: One

Total accidents for FY90: Six

Total accidents for FY89: Twenty-one

A Park Ranger collapsed after assisting other rangers in a water rescue effort. She fell against a park bench and bruised her ear and cheek.

PERSONAL INJURIES - CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES - JUNE 90: None

Total accidents for FY90: Four

Total accidents for FY89: Five

GOVERNMENT VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - JUNE 90: None

Total vehicle accidents for FY90: Two

Total vehicle accidents for FY89: Two

LAKE FATALITIES - JUNE 90: Two

Total lake fatalities for FY90: Two

Wappapello Lake - 1

Carlyle Lake - 1

A 24 year old male became exhausted while swimming with friends in the vicinity of a beach at Wappapello Lake. His friends and relatives attempted to rescue him, but were unable to do so.

A 19 year old male swimming in a beach area was missed by parents. His body was subsequently found in approximately seven feet of water.

Total lake fatalities for FY89: Six

Mark Twain Lake - 1

Lake Shelbyville - 2

Rend Lake - 1

Wappapello Lake - 2



On the Soapbox

Telling the District's story this month were:

Around the District

Gary Dyhouse gave two lectures to an Interior Flooding Hydrology class at the Hydrologic Engineering Center in Davis, California. His topics were operational and cost considerations of interior flood control projects and the hydraulic design necessary for these facilities.

Riverlands Office

Area Manager Pat McGinnis gave a presentation on the Environmental Demonstration Area to members of the Illinois Nurserymen Association. After the presentation Ed Bergoff (RO-L) and Tracy Galloway (OD-RM) hosted the group on a tour of the Melvin Price Dam.

Tracy Galloway hosted members of the St. Michael's Men's group and the Friendship Village Men's Club on a tour of Melvin Price Dam. Ed Berghoff and Jack Vizer (RO-L) joined Tracy on a tour with the St. Louis Chapter of the League of Women voters.

Carlyle Lake

Park Ranger Julia Ratermann conducted a Free Parents/Kids Fishing Clinic at the visitor center for about 150 people. She worked

in cooperation with Dave Leinard of the Highland Bass Club. Prizes were donated by corporate sponsors and local bait shops.

Park Ranger Lawrence Williams was interviewed by WCEE Channel 13 News to update the public on coming events and activities at Carlyle Lake.

Park Rangers Debby Rahm and Michelle Obermeier presented a safety belt program to 65 people using the Convincer Machine. Monroe-Randolph Bi-County Health Department provided the Convincer Machine.

Assistant Park Manager Dick Conner talked to 60 members of the Migratory Waterfowlers Association on resource management opportunities at Carlyle Lake.

Mark Twain Lake

Park Rangers Brian Edmond, Kellie Floyd, Shelly Bassinger and Laura Fray presented two separate programs of the popular Water Safety puppet show and taught water safety songs to participants of the St. Brendans Catholic Church Safety Town.

Park Ranger Lois Balin participated in the recent Boy Scout Summer Campout at the Palmyra Fairgrounds to promote awareness and appreciation of Missouri snakes.

"Woodsy" (Park Rangers Kevin Thompson and Laura Fray) assisted by Park Rangers Lois Balin, Kellie Floyd and Diane Hellhake helped spread the word to "Give a Hoot" during the Perry Old Fashioned Days and New

London Park Day Parades.

A group of 12 elementary teachers taking a course on energy from North Central Energy toured the Cannon Powerplant from top to bottom with Powerplant Superintendent Dale Russell.

The interpretive staff and area libraries are actively promoting environmental awareness and appreciation of Missouri wildlife. Park Ranger Laura Fray displayed and presented a program on Missouri Owls at the Farber Library. Park Ranger Kevin Thompson visited the Monroe City Library to discuss Grassland and Wildflowers. Park Ranger Lois Balin visited the Laddonia Library to tell the "Snake's Side of the Story" to promote awareness of the benefits of the many Missouri snakes.

Rend Lake

Park Rangers Lauri Wuest, Jackie Brachear, David Smothers and Kim Mayhew presented a variety of outdoor safety and wildlife programs to a week long pre-school camp held at North Sandusky Recreation area. The camp, funded through Southern Illinois University and the State of Illinois, was held for 3-5 year olds and their parents; the participants are considered disadvantaged children.

Wappapello Lake

Assistant Park Manager Gary Stilts and Park Ranger Sue Mueller met with 20 members of



the Northeast Community Association to discuss the Traditional Access Plan and recreational activities available at Wappapello Lake.

Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson conducted a gatehouse tour for 33 students of the South Iron Elementary School in Annapolis, Missouri. Andrew also spoke to 36 members of the Modern Woodsmen of America about the Corps of Engineers missions of flood control and recreation.

Cape Girardeau TV station KFVS-12 interviewed Park Ranger Dan Camden concerning high water and visitation at the lake. Dan was also a guest on the Outdoors with Dennis Keeney radio program on Poplar Bluff radio station KJEZ. Dan discussed the opening of recreation areas and lack of a Fourth of July fireworks display at the lake this year.

The interpretive staff at the lake talked to more than 500 visitors at the boat ramps during National Safe Boating Week. Boaters were updated on new Missouri boating regulations and given safe boating tips to follow while out on the lake.

Lake Shelbyville

Visitor Information Rangers have been very busy this June with special request programs. They include:

A reptiles of Illinois program at the 4-H day camp in Martinsville.

A tour of the dam and reptile program for Painted Pony Day Care Center.

A Snakes of Illinois presentation at Moulton Jr. High, in Shelbyville.

Smokey the Bear appeared in the Sullivan parade.

A snakes Alive program at Douglas-Hart Nature Center.

A What's Happening at Lake Shelbyville program at a Windsor Kiwanis meeting.

A water safety program at Monticello Library.

An Invite Wildlife Into Your Backyard program for the Shelbyville Garden Club.

The Environment and You program at Shelbyville Grade School.

A Water Safety program at a Westervelt 4-H meeting.

An owls program at Mr. Pulaski.

And Woodsy the Owl appeared in the Neoga Parade.

Maria Shafer began a weekly series of radio shows on WSHY. She aired on the radio station's "Talk of the Town" and discussed lake events and conditions. The show continues until Labor Day weekend.

Wildlife Camp at Rend Lake

The Third Annual Illinois Wildlife Federation-Corps of Engineers Wildlife Camp was held at Rend Lake in June in the Sleepy Hollow Youth area. Forty-eight junior high students from Cairo to Chicago lived in Sleepy Hollow's seven platform tents for seven days and were taught how to protect our natural resources in the State of Illinois.

The activities included a four-hour boating and hunting mini-clinic sponsored by the Illinois Department of Conservation and a Junior Ranger program sponsored by the Rend Lake Management Office where the kids actually worked with the Corps Park Rangers in the areas of law enforcement, creel census, brood pond fisheries, bluebird management, wood duck management and interpretation programming.

District picnic a success

I want to thank everyone on the CAC and the volunteers who made this year's District picnic a success. Special recognition goes out to Maryann Dostal, president of CAC and Diadra Henley, picnic coordinator.

Events like this do not happen without the support of supervisors and volunteers taking the time to help. The attendance was disappointing, but those who came out had a super time. The food was great and there were activities for everyone. Unfortunately the playing fields were too wet for some of the sporting events. I can assure you the dunking booth was wet enough!

Everyone is reminded that the CAC is an organization for the employees and all suggestions or ideas are appreciated. You can

give them to Maryann Dostal, ODE, or to Lou Chiodini or Major Brontoli in the Executive Office.
Maj. Brontoli

Time capsule in old Mart Bldg.

Did you know that a time capsule had been embedded in the Mart Building when it was constructed 60 years ago? J.S. Alberici Construction Co., the contractor on the building's rehabilitation found the capsule on the end of a jackhammer during exterior work on the building.

The capsule will be put back into the renovated building, now called the Robert A. Young Building, but this time it will be marked by an etching on the granite to say where it is.



NEWS BRIEFS

Boundary workshops

Park Rangers Andrea Pickard and Bill Howard conducted several public workshops initiating the new exception to the boundary policy at Carlyle Lake. The exception allows adjacent property owners to mow, by permit, government property that falls within one hundred feet of their homes. This exception should solve the continued problem of mowing encroachments by adjacent landowners who reside in various subdivisions around the lake. So far, 30 permits have been issued.

Safe boating course

Rend Lake Rangers were busy during the first week of June with National Safe Boating Week and National Fishing Week activities. Thirty-two youngsters and adults earned Illinois Safe Boating Certificates by attending an eight hour course taught by Corps rangers.

Summer Daze

The Third Annual Summer Daze Festival at Rend Lake saw 70 flea market and arts and crafts vendors enjoy a hot summer afternoon on the visitor center grounds. More than 5,000 people attended the one day event. Rend Lake Promotions, Inc., co-sponsored the event and gave cash prizes to the winners of a banjo contest and a fiddle contest.

Special displays at MTL

Park Ranger Diane Hellhake continues to progressively coordinate special displays and demonstrations at the M.W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitor Center at Mark Twain Lake. Special activities scheduled at the Center during the month included Exotic Birds from area bird keepers, Ghost Stories by storyteller June Winters, a musical performance by the Quincy Little Theater from the "Sound of Music," and crafts and folklore from the senior citizens from the Monroe City Manor. July's schedule is developing fast.

Memorial Day run

The Memorial Day 5K Dam Run co-sponsored by the Mark Twain Lake Management Office and the Monroe City Kiwanis Club attracted 43 runners and about 150 spectators. The run was coordinated by Park Ranger Diane Hellhake.

Disaster helpers

At 4:30 p.m. Saturday June 2nd, a tornado hit the small town of Findlay which is located in the heart of Lake Shelbyville. Although 16 homes were destroyed and 44 damaged, there were no fatalities.

Corps employees Leanne Crouch, David Allen and Kara Hauk spent their time off helping the Red Cross in clean up and mass feedings for the victims and

work crews. Park Manager Winston Campbell, who is the Shelby County Red Cross Chapter Chairman, donated his free time helping with disaster case work.

Buatte Chester's Outstanding Citizen

Charles Buatte, who retired from the St. Louis District five years ago, has been selected as the Chester, Illinois, Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Citizen of the year. Buatte received the award at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet last month.

Buatte was lauded for his extensive community service throughout the area. Jeff Kerkhover, president of the Chamber said of Buatte, "We need leaders in our community who... everyday give of themselves to others and quietly go about the business of making things happen. Such a man is Charles Buatte."

U.S. Congressman Glenn Poshard was the featured speaker at the banquet.

Blood drive nets 75 pints

The St. Louis District Spring Blood Drive on 24 May netted 75 pints of blood. We would like to thank all of our generous donors and those who helped with unloading and reloading the Red Cross supplies. Because of a previously cancelled blood drive, your donations were even more important.

We are sorry about the wait. We will suggest that more nurses and cots be available at the next blood drive. Please mark your calendars for the next two blood drives on 30 August and 20 December.

Cathy Mueller & Jim Mills, Blood Drive Coordinators



Flood fight efforts

Last month's ESPRIT carried an article on flood damages prevented by Corps' structures during the May flooding. While statistics are important, we were remiss in not mentioning the most important part of our flood fighting efforts, the people in the District who spend long hours in the field helping local residents with the hour by hour problems of keeping their homes and fields dry.

All but one of the flood fight areas were activated (the Kas-kaskia, for the first time in a long time). Flood fight teams, assisted by representatives from ED-D and ED-G, solved pump station and

gatewell problems, as well as levee embankment problems during the flooding. People from the Service Base and the Dredge Potter hauled flood fight equipment, cleared debris from government drains and placed plastic and sandbags on government levees to prevent erosion. Several other District elements made contributions that helped to prevent additional losses.

It's the people who make the difference in a flood fight. ESPRIT salutes all those who were out where it's wet and dirty helping to keep our customers dry.

Corps bike tour team

Some of our co-workers will be spending their spare time this summer training on bicycles for a 150-mile tour coming in September. The tour is the 6th annual MS-150 ride to Columbia, Missouri, via scenic Hermann. It benefits the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

We are still looking for riders and volunteers to help out with the tour. For more information please contact Doris Miano at 263-

5534 or Stan Ebersohl at 263-5533.

So far, those planning to ride on the Corps team are: Tim George, PD-A, Greg Hempen, ED-GG, Joy Bode, CT, Doris Miano, RE-P, Fred Nierman, OD-F, Stan Ebersohl and son, OD-R, Sig Groetsch and son, RO-L.

Contact any of the riders to give your pledge support. All support will be greatly appreciated.

Women slower to quit smoking

The American Cancer Society reports that the percentage of women smokers is dropping at a slower rate than men, dropping only 5 percent from 1965 to 1987. With overwhelming medical evidence against smoking and increasing social and economic pressure to quit, why aren't women as successful at smoking cessation efforts?

Some possible answers from studies indicate: Smoking cessa-

tion programs base their approaches on the experience of male smokers, not addressing the needs of women smokers.

Women's motivations for smoking include the need to diminish or suppress negative feelings. Men tend to smoke for pleasure. Programs need to address underlying psychological issues present for women during the quitting process.

Post Office comes thru

We grumble sometimes about the post office: the ever rising cost of postage, late mail, lost mail. But when the post office comes through, you don't hear about it.

Rob Davinroy's (ED-HP) opinion of the post office went up several notches in May. It seems his passport for his trip to Japan to present his award winning paper to an international conference was not processed on time. The day before he was scheduled to leave, it hadn't arrived.

To help Rob out, the night before he was to go, the night shift at the post office sifted through all incoming mail as it came in, looking for his passport. At 4 a.m. on the morning he was to leave, a postal worker met him at the post office door and presented him with his passport.

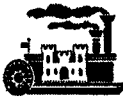
Hurray for the post office.

Ron Lindsay 'Baddest Writer'

We always knew engineers were bad writers. Now one of the St. Louis District family has proven it. Ron Lindsay, PM-B, won first place in the Post-Dispatch "BAD WRITING" contest. (No it wasn't part of a report he's working on.)

Ron beat out more than a thousand entries to prove he's the lousiest writer in these parts. His photo adorned the cover of the June 24th Post-Dispatch Sunday Magazine. In fact it was in there twice. We hope St. Louisans are careful to throw the magazines in the trash. We wouldn't want something like that blowing around on the streets. It might frighten away the tourists.

Congratulations to Ron for proving what we already knew.



Amazon exploits

Leo G. Nico, biologist in the Environmental Analysis Branch, will show some of the exciting events of his nearly four years of field research in South America during the 1980s. On Wednesday, 25 July, in the Technical Library, Room 926, from noon to 12:45, he will give an account of the upper Orinoco (Venezuela) and its rivers, wildlife and indigenous people.

All are invited to bring their own brown bag lunch and learn about places few outsiders have ever seen before!

Barcode initiation

As part of the activities at the BYO Brown Bag Lunchtime lecture on 25 July you are invited to sign up for your library bar-



From your Technical Library

coded number. As with many other government agencies, we are finding it easier to inventory books and track usage of the collection by automating book circulation with a barcode system. Instead of signing out the book

you will "wand" the book and your ID card to automatically sign out the book for a month's usage. Cookies and punch will be available for all who sign up then or anytime that afternoon.

Inventory back on

After an unforeseen delay, the library is back in the offices continuing the inventory of government-owned books assigned to your section/branch. As you get ready to move, please do not discard books or magazines. Please return them so we can either take them off the property list and clear you, or add them to the collection as important but infrequently used references.

Should you wish any additional information please contact Art Taylor at 5675.

Have laptop; will travel

The following is an excerpt from "The Pacific Connection," a DoD publication.

Automation - forget Webster's definition. At the office, this word means computers. Computers are everyday, taken for granted, work tools until a TDY gets scheduled.

For true computer buffs the very thought, "I'll have to hand write my draft report," causes palpitations, dizziness, clammy hands and sharp shooting pains in the neck and shoulders. The alternative, return home and try to decipher those strange notebook squiggles, is equally unappealing.

Lap top computer to the rescue. It's small and portable. It's easy to pack up and check through airport security. But is it safe?

The Office of Automation Bulletin, Military Traffic Manage-

ment Command, published an article by Bob Cunningham which answers many "have laptop, will travel" questions.

IS DATA SAFE IN AIRPORT SECURITY?

Many questions have been asked on the effects of carrying diskettes through airport security. Will they erase or damage the data on the disk? I've heard people answer yes and no, but no one could say why, so I decided to do a little research to find out if it is true or not and why.

I started on this quest by contacting the Federal Aviation Administration and there I spoke to Dr. Lyle Malotky, the program manager for Security Research and Aviation Security. He explained that airport metal detectors use less than 1 gauss of pulsating electromagnetic field.

The earth has a natural gauss of .7, and normal electronic media (mag strips, tapes and diskettes) require 200 to 300 gauss to write, change or alter data. The x-ray units at the airports use less than 1 milli rad (mr) per scan. In everyday living you are exposed to .3 mr per day, and when flying at normal altitudes (about 35,000 feet for commercial airlines) you are exposed to .5 to 1.0 mr per hour. Now what does all of this mean?

BOTH GOOD AND BAD NEWS

The good news: there is no worry about your diskettes being erased when sending them through security equipment at the airport. Just to satisfy my own curiosity, I carried diskettes through the metal detector and sent diskettes through an x-ray at



Laptop (continued)

Dulles Airport. I then tested the diskettes and guess what? There were no alterations to either the files or the data on the disks.

And for the bad news: if you are traveling overseas, there is a possibility that they use different equipment with high dosages. That means there is a possibility that your disks could be erased. But don't worry; all airports in the U.S. and foreign countries will allow you to have items inspected visually instead of x-raying them.

Here comes the worst news of all. The biggest potential for data loss during air travel is due to vibration and static electricity. Under most circumstances your diskettes will not suffer damage if they are packed tightly and are well padded. There is not a lot you can do about vibrations; however, that is seldom a problem. The worst of all is that static electricity will zap your diskettes in a heartbeat. At 35,000 feet Free Air Temperature is about -40 Fahrenheit with only three percent humidity. That air is taken into the airplane, oxygenated and warmed up, which brings the humidity down to one percent. With that low humidity, static electricity is very high, and simply moving around the plane will generate more. Consequently, touching a diskette could cause it to be erased.

THE BOTTOM LINE

U.S. airport security systems will not damage your diskettes. Touching or trying to use a laptop computer or diskette while flying is the most dangerous. And, if you are traveling overseas, have diskettes and laptops visually inspected.

District supports Boy Scouts

On June 1st, 2nd and 3rd more than 21,000 Boy Scouts and their leaders held RENDEZVOUS '90 in Forest Park in St. Louis. It was reported to be the largest "Camporee" in St. Louis Scouting history and the largest Scouting activity in the world in 1990. The Scouts came from 11 Eastern Missouri counties, the City of St. Louis, plus a few units from Illinois.

The Corps of Engineers St. Louis District did a lot of work to help make RENDEZVOUS '90 a success. We provided "Military Liaison" for the event. In this context, we became an active part

of the Boy Scouts of America Physical Arrangements Committee. We coordinated the efforts of the Active, Reserve and National Guard military units. They in turn provided large tents for "trading posts" and other activities in the various program areas.

The Army Reserve's 302 Field Hospital (MEDVAC) erected one of its large hospital tents, complete with equipment and trained personnel. This display was set up in the "Rendezvous of Today" area, and was presented as one of the many "career opportunities" offered.

Voluntary leave transfer program

The voluntary leave transfer program, thus far, appears to be a success. Our report from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters has provided the following information:

315 applications requesting to be a leave recipient, Corps-wide.

297 applications approved.

18 applications denied.

252 emergencies affected the employee.

45 affected the employee's family.

\$22,000 was the average pay of recipients.

90 recipients were male.

207 recipients were female.

\$26,000 was the average pay of donors.

68,501 hours were used by recipients.

244 recipients returned to work.

19 recipients took disability retirement.

It is also noted that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has ruled that donated leave is taxable

compensation for leave recipients and is subject to tax withholding. The IRS has also advised that donated leave is not a deductible expense or loss to the donor, when the donated leave is used.

Old Twenty-Six

by Ken Porter

First the gates close and then they part,
Just like the beating of a heart.
The mighty gates of steel and wood,
So many years they have withstood.
In winter's cold and summer's heat,
They hardly ever missed a beat.
Our nation's lifeblood steady flows,
As river commerce comes and goes.
The steady beating of the locks,
Passes traffic and fills the docks.
A primal beat that is so slow,
A lock passing another tow.
A valiant heart can never die,
A deed well done is not a lie.



Vacation protection hints

With summer here more people are traveling on vacation; therefore, the Personal Safety Committee of the District Crime Prevention Council would like to share a few safety precautions. These hints were written by Mr. Jack L. Dittmeyer, Chairman of the Veterans Affairs of Sub Vets of World War II and published in the *Polaris/June 1990* magazine. We thought his ideas should be shared.

Robbers are aware that robbing a tourist has advantages. If the robber does happen to get caught, he can be pretty certain the tourist will not return for his trial, so the case will be thrown out and he will go free. Chances are good tourists will be carrying a large amount of cash and other valuables, so they're an attractive target.

Around large metropolitan areas, robbers roam the expressways looking for out of state cars, cars with large amounts of visible luggage or rental cars. Once a victim is spotted, they pull alongside and try to convince the driver he has car problems - fire, leaking gasoline, flat tire or some minor problems. If this happens to you, **DO NOT STOP**. Proceed to the nearest exit and find a service station. If you do stop on the highway, you stand the chance of being robbed, beaten or possibly even shot.

Another trick used by criminals is referred to as "bump & run." In this instance you are intentionally bumped from behind. Usually not enough to cause damage. When the driver gets out to inspect possible damage, he will be faced with a gun or knife. Again, **DO NOT STOP**. Proceed to the nearest well-lighted area or exit where there are people before

stopping to inspect damage. Remember, once you stop the robber has gained control of the situation.

In addition, no matter what area of the country you may be in:

1. When driving, plan your route carefully. If you do get lost, ask a police officer, an attendant at a well-lighted gas station, a security guard or even a bus driver for directions.
2. Don't carry all your money or valuables in one place. If you are driving with your windows down in town, put your seat belt through your purse strap or camera so it can't be grabbed by someone reaching through an open window at a stop light.
3. It is a good idea to drive with windows up when possible. Always keep your doors locked.
4. If you enter an area that makes you uncomfortable, turn around and find a different or more direct route. As we said before, don't stop and ask just anyone for directions.
5. When in traffic and upset by someone else's careless driving **DO NOT USE YOUR HORN**. In some areas this is considered an insult. Although it is hard to believe, people have been shot for doing as little as that. Use common sense.
6. Keep your car in good shape. This helps avoid breakdowns.
7. Use the bypass around large metropolitan areas and you will be safer.

Be safe and have a wonderful vacation.

This is a message from your Personal Safety Committee, Chairperson, Norma Hall, committee members, Bill Remmert and Bill Stroud.

Health coverage for separated employees

When an employee is laid off, the loss of health benefits can be as disastrous as the loss of a regular paycheck.

Now, employees who separate from federal service prior to becoming eligible for immediate retirement can continue their Federal Employees Health Benefit Program coverage for up to 18 months, effective Jan 1, 1990. Furthermore, their dependents can continue enrollment for up to 36 months. Employees involuntarily separated for gross misconduct are ineligible for this benefit.

A new law provides employees affected by reductions in force with similar coverage given to laid-off private sector employees under the Consolidation Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985. To continue coverage, the employee must pay both the government and individual shares of plan cost. The government's share is 60 percent of the average health plans; the cost of coverage could be significant, depending on the separated worker's plan.

Before the new legislation became effective, separated employees received 31 days of free continued health benefits coverage. They could convert to self-paid, non-group insurance contracts with the federal medical plan carriers. Under the new legislation, employees still received the free 31-day coverage, either immediately after separation or after the 18-month extension ends.

The Office of Personnel Management is writing regulations and guidance to implement the new legislation so agency personnel offices can help affected employees.



To your health

Fit-To-Win news

We are rapidly approaching District relocation to the RAY Building near the summer's end. With this move comes opportunities for on-site physical fitness conditioning. The Public Health Service (PHS) anticipates fitness center opening by October 1, 1990.

The District Commander recently approved continued funding for the FIT-TO-WIN (FTW) Program in FY91. For Phase III we will fund the lesser of either 50% of health club membership or \$100. We are still working out details on Phases I and II re-testing and educational programs.

Many thanks for the strong response to our FTW survey which demonstrated enthusiastic support

for the RAY Building Fitness Center. Your input was invaluable to the decision process. Each 210 Tucker employee received an equipment and facilities description with the past survey.

The first major concern expressed on the survey was whether FTW membership was necessary to use the new facility. The answer is "No, but...!" Employees can join the fitness center at their own expense. PHS will require a medical examination just like our FTW Phase I. FTW is the employer-sponsored program developed as part of the total benefit package.

RAY Building Fitness Center cost, not yet finalized by PHS, was

the second most asked question. Preliminary estimates are about \$150 for annual membership. For FTW members, the District will pay for PHS-required medical screening for initial entry, for follow-up monitoring tests through all FTW Phases and half the yearly membership costs. Non-FTW employees must pay full membership and for all PHS-mandated entrance screening expenses.

As expressed before, now is the opportune time for FTW enrollment. Getting through Phases I and II prequalifies employees before the move and lets you start in at the new fitness center without delay!

Fruit, veggies keep you healthy and bright

Here's more good news about what fresh fruits and vegetables can do for you.

A new study released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows that boron helps to keep alertness high and dexterity at the levels you need to do your job well.

Boron is most abundantly found in apples, pears, grapes, broccoli, carrots and, to a lesser degree, in other fruits and vegetables.

A lack of boron was found to decrease both concentration and motor performance. Women in the study, for example, could not tap their finger as fast, follow a

target as accurately using a joy stick, or respond as quickly when asked to search a field of letters for specific items.

Nutritionists have always said there was a great deal to discover about nutrients in food. That's one reason why it isn't smart to skip certain foods and count on a vitamin supplement to make up the difference.

Dietary copper

Another USDA study shows how copper deficiency may be responsible for damaged heart muscle and other internal ravages of alcoholism. New research points to these same kinds of

damage occurring in laboratory animals that have not received adequate copper in their diets.

Test animals that got adequate copper didn't suffer any consequences even after drinking a 20 percent alcohol mixture in lieu of water.

These findings are important for people who imbibe because humans metabolize food and drink in the same ways as test animals do.

The richest sources of copper are oysters, liver, blackstrap molasses and black pepper. Whole wheat, lobster, nuts and seeds are also good sources.



Retiree Review

Attendance was off at the June luncheon, with only 35 present.

At least three regulars were off playing in the LMVD Golf Tournament at Rend Lake. (Rumor has it that Elmer H. hit a hole-in-one -- in a gopher hole!) Other regulars were simply among the missing.

This was only partially offset by the Stikas, Bill Douglas & wife, Lou Hambuechon and Pat Taff making their first appearances this year. Ray Rinkle seems to be operating on a quarterly basis this year. Also for the first time in three months Bob Miles came by.

Out of towners were Laurel Nelson, back from California for a visit and Dick Cameron from Florida. Mary Lamb, from Arkansas, joined us for the first time -- as did local Roy Mathiesen, who retired last December.

District representative this month was Jack Niemi, who brought no supporting cast, but answered questions and presented a short video production, "Opening the Waterways." This was a review of the Corps work on the inland waterway system, focusing primarily on Old L&D 26 and Mel Price Locks and Dam.

Roger Cuddeback acted as Emcee and reported on Ulas Wilson. Ulas is now at home, but has daily therapy and returns to the hospital for out-patient treatment twice a week. His doctor reported that the tumor is shrinking and the prognosis is optimistic.

Joe Vishey was also unable to attend because of a lung infection.

Ruth Zidon is with her son in Wisconsin, wearing a neck brace and recuperating from a broken neck vertebra. Cards may be sent c/o Chandler, N.50 W., 15320 Honeysuckle Lane, Menomonee, Falls, WI 53051. Ruth hopes to be back with us in August..

Kate Stiles, in June, completed two years of uninterrupted attendance, making 24 appearances in a row. Roger C. remains the champ with 33!

The July luncheon will be the usual third Thursday, July 19 -- at the Salad Bowl. Come join us!

Retirees

George Anderson, formerly Chief, Personnel Office, retired on 16 June, after 29 years of federal service. George spent almost 16 years with the St. Louis District.

Thank you from George

I wish to give my thanks to all the St. Louis District employees who have donated and transferred leave to me during my illness. I have appreciated all your help and support.

George A. Anderson

RETIRES. If you know of someone who is not receiving the ESPRIT, but who would like to be on the mailing list, contact Mary Lou Lawson in the Public Affairs Office at (314) 263-5662. We will be glad to add them to our list.

Corbin's Comments continued

obey the various laws of the land may be needed to overcome our somewhat tentative/timid execution.

What's at stake, in my opinion, is the future of the Corps of Engineers, not just the St. Louis District. The American People are demanding "quality of life" through recreation and environmental action. We can either respond or perish! If we wait for someone, somewhere, to do it for us, we perish! Unfortunately for us, all the above strikes us at a time when our workload is such that we either take a chance and go after it, or wait and go out of business as we know the District today.

One other topic -- appreciate your patience at the Information Meeting at the Soldier's Memorial. Although some of the questions didn't make me feel particularly good, I appreciate very much the fact that most of you are being honest and are concerned. Keep a check on the rumor mill -- it can get vicious if it gets out of hand. In particular be careful about rumors that come from outside District. They are almost always wrong, and are always self-serving. Will be around to each of your branches and divisions in the next couple of months to work some "group on one" sessions and will run another Information Meeting at the Soldier's Memorial next quarter. Get your questions, concerns in to Lou Chiodini so I can address them. Thanks!



Recycling: Government responsibility?

Recycling is finally catching on in America. Boy Scouts aren't the only ones doing it anymore. It's at your grocery store, stopping at your curbside. Recycling is fashionable.

Concern for the environment is mixing into the political arena and all facets of industry. Environmental initiative has become the right phrase to say here in SLD. Recycling is inching its way into the business workplace. Xerox guarantees a recycled paper for its copy machines. The airlines are beginning to recycle those cans left over from the soda served on each flight. Office paper recycling programs are popping up in our own backyard - Southwestern Bell started one just six months ago.

Because paper alone gluts 41 percent of our landfill space, we all need to get interested in office paper recycling.

Presently, minor recycling efforts are being made nationwide, mostly concentrated in the Washington, D.C., area. Apparently the only full-scale program at any federal center currently in effect was started in Denver in 1987 (Bureau of Reclamation).

Government participation might be successful enough not only to break even, but actually to generate revenue -- all of which must be returned to the U.S. General Treasury until legislation allows otherwise. It is anticipated that, in the near future, agencies will be allowed to keep revenues they generate.

Over a year's time the statistics for the St. Louis District (500 employees) would be:

20 tons of paper =
350 trees
13,650 gallons of oil

66 cubic yards of landfill
208,020 kilowatts per hour of electricity

1,200 lbs. of air pollutants

One year's worth of statistics for the entire RAY Building (3600 employees) would be:

140 tons of paper =

2,450 trees

95,550 gallons of oil

460 cubic yards of landfill
1,456,140 kilowatts per hour of electricity

8,400 lbs. of air pollutants

In 1976 all government agencies were mandated to begin paper recycling programs. Unfortunately, agencies could easily justify an exemption from this mandate by demonstrating that the program was not cost effective and that no resources were available to implement one.

Times have changed and paper recycling is now a very real part of American industry. Recycling companies pay for waste paper, they pick up from the workplace, they provide training to the employees participating in the program. Government offices are encouraged now more than ever to recycle. The EPA has published a 1990 booklet giving guidelines to successfully implement an office recycling program.

Consideration is being given to a recycling program in the St. Louis District, which will eventually be taken over by the CASU to implement in the RAY Building. Flyers and notices will be distributed as a program develops.

GI Bill ends 45-year program

This is the first year since 1944 that American military veterans are not covered by the GI Bill.

It marks the end of one of the greatest social programs in American history. Since Franklin Roosevelt enacted the bill on June 2, 1944, some \$69.7 billion in education and training assistance has been used to aid 20 million veterans, dependents, active duty personnel and reservists.

The human dimension of the Bill is even more impressive. The law broke the barrier on who could go to college. Originally designed to keep returning World War II service men from flooding the postwar job market, it enabled 2.23 million veterans to attend college. Society benefited by the infusion of hundreds of thousands of trained professionals and skilled tradesmen.

The Vietnam era GI Bill, beginning January 31, 1955, provided benefits to 8.1 million veterans. Korean War veterans who took advantage of the Bill total 2.8 million, and about 7.8 million veterans of WWII used the original Bill for education, home loans, farm loans, and other types of covered assistance.



Your Safety
Our Concern

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